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FIG. 1. PYRAMID OF AMENEMHAT I
CONDITION OF NORTHERN SIDE BEFORE BEGINNING EXCAVATION

FURTHER CONTINUATION OF THE SAINT-GAUDENS EXHIBIT.—The interest in the works of Augustus Saint-Gaudens is still so great that the Trustees have been led to prolong the Memorial Exhibition until June 1st.

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION

THE second year's work* of the expedition organized through private liberality to carry on excavations in Egypt, on behalf of the Museum began on November 1st, following a plan which includes both the continuation of the excavations begun a year ago at the Pyramids of Lisht and also work on sites of other periods which increases materially the scope of the expedition.

*Report of the first year's work of the expedition will be found in the Bulletins of April, July, and October, 1907.

In the work last year at Lisht on the pyramid of Amenemhat I, it will be remembered that the eastern side of the pyramid and its temple were excavated, resulting in the recovery of the principal architectural features of the temple as well as a considerable number of blocks of the temple-relief and the great altar and offering-stela of the king.

The section of the pyramid to be investigated this year was its northern side, including the pyramid-entrance, and on November 1st, this part of the season's work was begun by Mr. A. C. Mace. At the same time Mr. H. E. Winlock continued the excavation of the cemetery of private tombs, immediately west of the pyramid.

In the clearing of the pyramid, a force of three hundred men, beginning at the northeast corner, carried the excavation westward along the northern face until the middle of February, when the greater

part of the mass of debris and drift-sand had been removed (figs. 1 and 2). The number of workmen was then reduced to about one hundred and the final work of clearing in detail has since gone on.

granted to it by the Egyptian Government, at the Oasis of Kharga. There is every reason to believe that the systematic excavation of the cemeteries and sites embraced in this new concession



FIG. 2. PYRAMID OF AMENEMHAT I
PROGRESS OF EXCAVATIONS ABOUT THE ENTRANCE

This has now resulted in the exposure of the construction of the pyramid-entrance, and of the pavement flanking the pyramid on this side, while immediately in front of the entrance a colossal red-granite stela of Amenemhat has been found which apparently had been re-used in finishing the construction of the entrance passage.

In due course it is hoped to effect an entrance into the burial-chamber of the pyramid, and a final report of the season's results at Lisht will be made in a later number of the Bulletin.

In order to take advantage of the favorable conditions which exist here in Egypt for the investigation of the remains of the later periods—Greco-Roman and Early Christian—the expedition is now extending its work to cover this field, through a valuable concession, recently

must eventually yield results of the fullest scientific value and that the material resulting from the work will place our Egyptian collection on a sound footing in its representation of this latest phase of Egyptian civilization and art.

The Oasis of Kharga has been visited by various scholars who have described its antiquities in more or less detail—among them, Schweinfurth,¹ Rohlfs,² Brugsch³ and de Bock.⁴ The Geological Survey of Egypt has also made a careful

¹ Schweinfurth, *Notizen zur Kenntniss der Oase El-Khargeh*: I, Alterthümer. (*Petermann's Mittheilungen*, 1875, Heft X.)

² Rohlfs, *Drei Monate in der libyschen Wüste*. Cassel, 1875.

³ Brugsch, *Reise nach der grossen Oase El-Khargeh*, Leipzig, 1878.

⁴ de Bock, *Matériaux pour servir à l'archéologie de l'Égypte chrétienne*. St. Pétersbourg, 1901.

report on the oasis, in which its antiquities are classified and briefly described.⁵

This oasis, generally known as the Great Oasis, is situated in the Libyan Desert, about four hundred miles southwest of

south of its northernmost limits, and it is in this end of the oasis that its principal ancient cemeteries and remains are found. The concession now granted us comprises the whole of this northern district, north

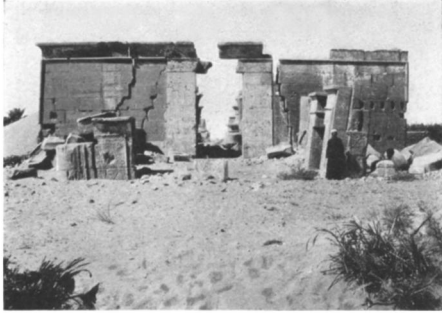


FIG. 3. OASIS OF KHARGA
FACADE OF THE TEMPLE OF HIBIS



FIG. 4. TEMPLE OF HIBIS, THE HYPOSTYLE
HALL LOOKING TOWARD THE SANCTUARY

Cairo and one hundred and twenty miles due west of the Nile Valley at Thebes. It is an irregularly elliptical-shaped basin with axis north and south, and, within the limiting escarpments of the oasis and the adjacent plateau, is some seventy-five

of the line of Kharga village. Dotted over it are a considerable number of ruined structures of various types, of which the most important are the Temple of Hibis, dating from the Persian period (figs. 3 and 4), and the Ptolemaic Temple of



FIG. 5. OASIS OF KHARGA, CHRISTIAN NECROPOLIS
TOMB-CHAPELS IN EASTERN SECTION

miles long by twelve to fifteen broad. The floor of the oasis, however, with its villages, wells and cultivated lands, covers but a small part of this area. The principal village, Kharga, from which the oasis takes its name, is in the northern part of the basin, some ten to twelve miles

⁵ *Geological Survey Report*, 1899, Cairo, 1900. Part II.

Nadura. The greater part of the smaller ruins, however, are of the Roman and Early Christian periods. Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, was banished to the oasis in A. D. 434, and it is probable that some of the later constructions are due to him and his followers.

On a hill some two and a half miles north of Kharga village is the largest of

the Christian cemeteries, of which the tomb-chapels present an unusually perfect state of preservation (fig. 5). They are some two hundred in number, their exteriors adorned with columns, pilasters, and arches, and their interior walls in some cases still retaining the frescoes with which they were ornamented. At other points in the concession are the remains of early monasteries, one of which, about half a mile north of the cemetery just mentioned, has its walls still preserved to a height of about fifty feet (fig. 6), and, inside, the remains of at least three floors of vaulted cells.

Until the present year it has been possible to reach the oasis only by a camel journey of four or five days from the Nile valley, and it is doubtless owing to this remoteness of position that the site has escaped much of the plundering that those in Egypt proper have suffered in modern times. Very opportunely for our work, however, communication was opened with the oasis at the beginning of February, by a line of railway just completed, so that

on February 21st we were able to establish a camp on the concession and to begin preliminary work. The points chosen for this season's beginning are the Christian Necropolis and monastery mentioned above, and an investigation of these will be carried out by Mr. Winlock, Mr. A. M. Jones and myself.

The expedition has also begun this year the formation of a series of records of the inscriptions, wall-paintings, and relief-sculptures of Egyptian tombs. Mr. N. de G. Davies, who for ten years past has been engaged in Egypt for the Archaeological Survey, has undertaken this work and is now carrying out the full-sized reproduction, in color, of the tomb of Nakht, at Thebes.

In the course of time this plan will give to the Museum an invaluable record and means of illustration of some of the most important tombs of the various periods.

A. M. L.

Pyramids of Lisht,
March 25, 1908.



FIG. 6. OASIS OF KHARGA
MONASTERY NORTH OF THE CHRISTIAN NECROPOLIS